

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

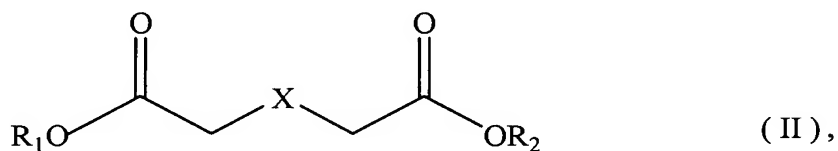
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a macrocyclic ketone ~~ketones~~ of the formula I



where

X is a mono- or polyunsaturated or saturated C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>17</sub>-alkyl radical, which may optionally be substituted by a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl radical,

said process comprising the ~~by~~ direct cyclization of a compound ~~compounds~~ of the formula II



where

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, in each case, independently of the other, may be identical or different, and are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, and X has the meaning given above, and wherein said cyclization takes place in the gas phase over a heterogeneous catalyst.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction takes place at temperatures of from 200 to 600°C.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in either claim 1 or 2,  
wherein the catalyst ~~used~~ is a fixed-bed catalyst.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3,~~ wherein the catalyst ~~used~~ is a heterogeneous catalyst, comprising, as active components, oxides, hydroxides or carboxylates of ~~subgroup~~ subgroups I to VIII, or of main ~~group~~ groups II, III and IV.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4,~~ wherein the catalyst ~~used~~ is a heterogeneous catalyst, comprising, as active components, oxides, hydroxides or carboxylates of subgroups I to VIII.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the catalyst ~~used~~ is a heterogeneous catalyst, comprising, as active components, oxides, hydroxides or carboxylates of subgroup IV.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~ wherein the catalyst is doped with oxides of main group I.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7,~~ wherein the catalyst ~~used~~ is TiO<sub>2</sub>.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8,~~ wherein the catalyst ~~used~~ is TiO<sub>2</sub> doped with alkali metal oxides or alkaline earth metal

- oxides.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~The A~~ process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the compound ~~compounds~~ of the formula I is selected ~~are chosen~~ from the group consisting of exaltone and ~~or~~ civetone.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~The A~~ process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the compound ~~compounds~~ of the formula II is selected ~~are chosen~~ from the group consisting of dimethyl 1,16-hexadecanedioate ~~or~~ and dimethyl 1,18-octadec-9-enedicarboxylate.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~The A~~ process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of from 0 to 30% by weight of water, based on the compound of the formula II ~~used~~.

Claim 13 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is a fixed-bed catalyst.

Claim 14 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is a heterogeneous catalyst, comprising, as active components, oxides, hydroxides or carboxylates of subgroups I to VIII, or of main groups II, III and IV.

Claim 15 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is a heterogeneous catalyst, comprising, as active components, oxides, hydroxides or carboxylates of subgroups I to VIII.

Claim 16 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is a heterogeneous catalyst, comprising, as active components, oxides, hydroxides or carboxylates of subgroup IV.

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is doped with oxides of main group I.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

Claim 19 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the catalyst is  $\text{TiO}_2$  doped with alkali metal oxides or alkaline earth metal oxides.

Claim 20 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the compound of the formula I is selected from the group consisting of exaltone and civetone.